

In the claims

1 Amend claims 1-40 where indicated.

2 1. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head assembly, which has an air bearing surface (ABS),
3 comprising:

4 a spin valve sensor, nonmagnetic first and second read gap layers, a ferromagnetic first
5 shield layer and a ferromagnetic first pole piece layer;

6 the spin valve sensor being located between the first and second read gap layers and the
7 first and second read gap layers being located between the first shield layer and the first pole piece
8 layer;

9 the spin valve sensor having a pinned layer which has a magnetic moment that is pinned
10 by a pinning layer in a direction perpendicular to the ABS;

11 a ferromagnetic second pole piece layer and a nonmagnetic write gap layer wherein the
12 second pole piece layer is separated from the first pole piece layer by the write gap layer at the
13 ABS and is connected to the first pole piece layer at a back gap;

14 each of the first shield layer and the first and second pole piece layers having a magnetic
15 easy axis that is directed parallel to the ABS;

16 an insulation stack with a coil layer embedded therein located between the first and second
17 pole piece layers wherein the insulation stack includes at least one baked photoresist insulation
18 layer that has been formed in part by heating at a preselected annealing temperature in the presence
19 of a magnetic field that is directed perpendicular to said ABS;

20 the insulation stack having been formed subsequent to said sensor and at least the first pole
21 piece layer having not been subjected to annealing in the presence of a magnetic field directed
22 parallel to said ABS before said heating of the layer of the insulation stack; and

23 at least one of the first and second shield layers and the first and second pole piece layers
24 comprising NiFeCo-O-N or NiFeCo-N.

1 2. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head assembly as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 second shield layer and the first pole piece layer are a common layer.

1 3. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head assembly as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 second shield layer and the first pole piece layer are separate layers and are separated by a
3 nonmagnetic insulative isolation layer.

1 4. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head assembly as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 second shield layer comprises NiFeCo-N.

1 5. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head assembly as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 second pole piece layer comprises a laminated layer of NiFeCo-O-N films with interlayer films
3 of Al₂O₃ or SiO₂.

1 6. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head assembly as described in claim 5 including:
2 a seed layer comprising NiFeCo-O-N;
3 the second pole piece layer being directly on the seed layer; and
4 the seed layer having higher O and N contents than the NiFeCo-O-N of the second pole
5 piece layer.

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1 7. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head assembly as described in claim 6 including:
2 a bottom layer of SiO₂; and
3 the seed layer being located between the bottom layer and the second shield layer.

1 8. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head assembly as described in claim 7 wherein the
2 laminated layer includes four NiFeCo-O-N films that are each substantially 4500 Å thick.

1 9. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head assembly as described in claim 8 wherein the
2 second shield layer comprises NiFeCo-N.

1 10. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive including a magnetic head assembly having
2 an air bearing surface (ABS), the disk drive comprising:
3 the magnetic head assembly including:
4 a spin valve sensor, first and second nonmagnetic first and second read gap layers,
5 a ferromagnetic first shield layer and a ferromagnetic first pole piece layer;
6 the spin valve sensor being located between the first and second read gap layers
7 and the first and second read gap layers being located between the first shield layer and the
8 first pole piece layer;
9 the spin valve sensor having a pinned layer which has a magnetic moment that is
10 pinned by a pinning layer in a direction perpendicular to the ABS;

11 a ferromagnetic second pole piece layer and a write gap layer wherein the second
12 pole piece layer is separated from the first pole piece layer by the write gap layer at the
13 ABS and is connected to the first pole piece layer at a back gap;

14 each of the first shield layer and the first and second pole piece layers having an
15 easy axis that is directed parallel to the ABS;

16 an insulation stack with a coil layer embedded therein located between the first and
17 second pole piece layers wherein the insulation stack includes at least one baked
18 photoresist insulation layer that has been formed in part by heating at a preselected
19 annealing temperature in the presence of a magnetic field that is directed perpendicular to
20 said ABS; and

21 the insulation stack having been formed subsequent to said sensor and at least the
22 first pole piece layer having not been subjected to annealing in the presence of a magnetic
23 field directed parallel to the ABS before said heating of the layer of the insulation stack;
24 and

25 at least one of the first and second shield layers and the first and second pole piece
26 layers comprising NiFeCo-O-N or NiFeCo-N;

27 a housing;

28 a magnetic disk rotatably supported in the housing;

29 a support mounted in the housing for supporting the magnetic head with its ABS site facing
30 the magnetic disk so that the magnetic head is in a transducing relationship with the magnetic disk;

31 a spindle motor for rotating the magnetic disk;

32 an actuator means connected to the support for moving the magnetic head to multiple
33 positions with respect to said magnetic disk; and

34 a processor connected to the magnetic head, to the spindle motor and to the actuator for
35 exchanging signals with the magnetic head, for controlling movement of the magnetic disk and
36 for controlling the position of the magnetic head.

1 11. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as described in claim 10 wherein the second
2 shield layer and the first pole piece layer are a common layer.

1 12. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as described in claim 10 wherein the second
2 shield layer and the first pole piece layer are separate layers and are separated by a nonmagnetic
3 insulative isolation layer.

1 13. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as described in claim 10 wherein the second
2 shield layer comprises NiFeCo-N.

1 14. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as described in claim 10 wherein the second
2 pole piece layer comprises a laminated layer of NiFeCo-O-N films with interlayer films of Al₂O₃
3 or SiO₂.

1 15. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as described in claim 14 including:
2 a seed layer comprising NiFeCo-O-N;
3 the second pole piece layer being directly on the seed layer; and
4 the seed layer having higher O₂ and N₂ contents than the NiFeCo-O-N of the second pole
5 piece layer.

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1 16. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as described in claim 15 including:
2 a bottom layer of SiO₂; and
3 the seed layer being located between the bottom layer and the second shield layer.

1 17. A magnetic disk drive as described in claim 16 wherein the laminated layer includes
2 four NiFeCo-O-N films that are each substantially 4500 Å thick.

1 18. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as described in claim 17 wherein the second
2 shield layer comprises NiFeCo-N.

1 19. (Currently Amended) A method of making a magnetic layer with in-plane
2 anisotropy and high H_K after hard axis annealing in the presence of a field perpendicular to the plane comprising the steps of:

3 providing a DC magnetron which has a chamber, a target and a substrate;
4 the target being NiFeCo;
5 providing a first process gas in the chamber which is composed of an inert gas and a
6 nitrogen containing gas; and
7 sputtering the target to form said magnetic layer composed of NiFeCo-O-N or NiFeCo-N
8 on the substrate; and
9 hard axis annealing the magnetic layer in the presence of a magnetic field perpendicular
10 to a major plane of the magnetic layer until the magnetic layer has an H_K from 2.6 Oe to 6.0 Oe
11 and in-plane anisotropy.

1 20. (Original) A method as described in claim 19 wherein no bias is applied to the
2 substrate.

1 21. (Original) A method as described in claim 19 wherein the first process gas
2 includes 1.6% to 3.2% N₂O and the magnetic layer includes multiple sputtered NiFeCo-O-N or
3 NiFeCo-N films.

1 22. (Original) A method as described in claim 19 wherein the first process gas
2 includes 1.6% to 3.2% N₂O and the magnetic layer is a single film 2,500 Å to 6,000 Å thick.

1 23. (Original) A method as described in claim 19 wherein the first process gas
2 includes 1.0% to 2.0% N₂ and the magnetic layer is a single film 4,500 Å to 18,000 Å thick.

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1 24. (Original) A method as described in claim 19 wherein the target is (Ni_{0.80+}
2 _xFe_{0.20-x})_{1-y}Co_y where -0.05 ≤ x ≤ 0.05 and 0.00 ≤ y ≤ 0.15 (wt. fraction).

1 25. (Original) A method as described in claim 19 wherein the first process gas is
2 said inert gas and N₂ and the target is sputtered to form the magnetic layer of at least a single film
3 of NiFeCo-N about 1.8 μm thick.

1 26. (Original) A method as described in claim 25 wherein the first process gas
2 includes 1.0% to 2.0% N₂.

1 27. (Currently Amended) A method as described in claim 26 wherein during
2 sputtering the first target, a pressure between 1 x 10⁻³ to 3 x 10⁻³ mbar is maintained within said
3 chamber and the magnetic layer comprises one or more films of NiFeCo-N from 4,500 Å to
4 18,000 Å thick.

1 28. (Original) A method as described in claim 19 including:
2 the first process gas being said inert gas and N₂O;
3 sputter depositing multiple interlayer films of Al₂O₃ or SiO₂; and
4 sputtering the target multiple times to deposit multiple NiFeCo-O-N magnetic films;
5 and alternating the depositions to form the magnetic layer as a lamination of magnetic and
6 interlayer films.

1 29. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as described in claim 28 including:~~ A method
2 ~~of making a magnetic layer with in-plane anisotropy and high H_K after hard axis annealing in the~~
3 ~~presence of a field perpendicular to the plane comprising the steps of:~~
4 providing a DC magnetron which has a chamber, a target and a substrate;
5 the target being NiFeCo;
6 providing a first process gas in the chamber which is composed of an inert gas and N₂O;
7 sputtering the target to form said magnetic layer composed of NiFeCo-O-N or NiFeCo-N
8 on the substrate;
9 sputter depositing multiple interlayer films of Al₂O₃ or SiO₂;
10 sputtering the target multiple times to deposit multiple NiFeCo-O-N magnetic films;
11 alternating the depositions to form the magnetic layer as a lamination of magnetic and
12 interlayer films;
13 hard axis annealing the magnetic layer at about 232° C in the presence of magnetic field
14 perpendicular to a major plane of the magnetic layer for about 400 minutes; and
15 after said hard axis annealing, the magnetic layer having an H_K from 2.6 Oe to 6.0 Oe and
16 in plane anisotropy.

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1 30. (Original) A method as described in claim 28 wherein the first process gas
2 includes 1.6% to 3.2% N₂O and each of the NiFeCo-O-N films is about 4,500 Å thick.

1 31. (Original) A method as described in claim 28 wherein no bias is applied to the
2 substrate.

1 32. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as described in claim 28 wherein~~ A method of
2 ~~making a magnetic layer with in-plane anisotropy and high H_K after hard axis annealing in the~~
3 ~~presence of a field perpendicular to the plane comprising the steps of:~~
4 providing a DC magnetron which has a chamber, a target and a substrate;
5 the target being NiFeCo;
6 providing a first process gas in the chamber which is composed of an inert gas and N₂O;
7 sputtering the target to form said magnetic layer composed of NiFeCo-O-N or NiFeCo-N
8 on the substrate;
9 before sputtering the target, sputter depositing a seed layer of NiFeCo-O-N with a second
10 process gas that has a higher N₂O content than the first process gas.;

11 sputter depositing multiple interlayer films of Al₂O₃ or SiO₂;
12 sputtering the target multiple times to deposit multiple NiFeCo-O-N magnetic films; and
13 alternating the depositions to form the magnetic layer as a lamination of magnetic and
14 interlayer films.

1 33. (Original) A method as described in claim 32 wherein the seed layer is 25 Å
2 to 200 Å thick.

1 34. (Original) A method as described in claim 32 including:
2 before sputter depositing the seed layer, sputter depositing a bottom layer of SiO₂ so that
3 the seed layer is located between the bottom layer and the magnetic layer.

1 35. (Original) A method as described in claim 32 wherein the N₂O content in the
2 second process gas is from 2.4% to 4.0%.

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1 36. (Original) A method as described in claim 35 wherein no bias is applied to the
2 substrate.

1 37. (Original) A method as described in claim 36 including:
2 before sputter depositing the seed layer, sputter depositing a bottom layer of SiO₂ so that
3 the seed layer is located between the bottom layer and the magnetic layer.

1 38. (Original) A method as described in claim 37 wherein the seed layer is 25 Å
2 to 200 Å thick.

1 39. (Original) A method as described in claim 38 wherein the bottom layer is about
2 25 Å thick.

1 40. (Original) A method as described in claim 39 wherein four NiFeCo-O-N
2 magnetic films are deposited with each magnetic film being about 4500 Å thick and each
3 interlayer film being about 25 Å thick.